

OXBOW ECO-CENTER

CALENDAR APRIL 2015 THROUGH August 2015

5400 N.E. St. James Drive, Port St. Lucie, FL 34983
(772) 785-5833; www.oxboweco.com; oxbow@stlucieco.org

Center hours are Tuesday through Friday from 12-5pm, Saturday from 10am-5pm.
Trails are open daily from dawn until dusk.

Visit the center for some free fun activities and check out our cool exhibits.

April 2015 – Lovely Lepidoptera

Guided Hikes – Saturdays @ 9:00am (Apr. 4, 11, 18, 25) at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Enjoy a guided hike through the wilds of the Oxbow and be enriched by the biodiversity this preserve has to offer. No RSVP required just show up at 9am ready to hike!

Tai Chi Classes -- Tai Chi for Health: Beginner & Intermediate classes: Tuesdays @ 10:30am (Apr. 7, 14, 21, 28) & Fridays @ 9:30am (Apr. 3, 10, 24); **Tai Chi Yang Form:** Tuesdays @ 6:30pm & Fridays @ 10:45am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. \$10 per class or \$32 for 4 classes, appropriate for ages 16 and up. RSVP a must. Call 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Tai Chi instructors Hilde and Hector Ruiz-Puyana will lead classes in Tai Chi for Health and Tai Chi Yang Form, designed for everyone, including those who suffer from arthritis, diabetes, osteoporosis, and balance issues. **Please note there will be no TAI CHI classes on April 17th.**

Oxbow's Jr. Home School "Birds of a Feather" – Wed., April 1st @ 2:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center; Ages 4-6, RSVP-\$3/participant, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Students will be searching for species that can be found in the Oxbow woods by playing a fun round of "I Spy Birds" and learning about some their great avian adaptations. RSVP a must!

Home School Day at the Oxbow "Birds of a Feather" – Thurs., April 2nd @ 10:00am at the Oxbow Eco-Center; Ages 7-12, RSVP-\$3/participant, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Birds come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. It is by nature's design that every part of a bird's body is perfectly adapted to survive and thrive in their native habitat. Join us as we discover the cool features of these amazing creatures and learn what it could be like to be an eagle, duck, cardinal or even a pesky crow. We'll use our new feathers, feet and bills to participate in fun hands-on activities, while learning what birds are adapted to which habitats. RSVP a must!

St. Lucie Audubon Society Lecture "When Eagles Roar" – Thurs., April 2nd @ 7:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. Join James Currie as he tells stories and reads excerpts from his upcoming book. James' story begins with his roots in South Africa growing up under Apartheid. His love of wildlife and birds, craving for adventure, and his mischievous roaming freely on Table Mountain, exciting adventures as a game ranger and birding guide, working as the Managing Director of Africa Foundation, and his emotional decision to move to the States to start his own birding TV show, are described in detail in this book. This lecture is FREE and open to the general public.

Junior Butterfly Club – Thurs., April 9th @ 1:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Join the Club! Children ages 5 through 15 are invited to join the Oxbow Junior Butterfly Garden Club, which meets monthly to learn the skills of leadership and gardening, gaining knowledge about butterflies and other wildlife. Annual fee for the club is \$20.

Swamp Tales— Thurs., April 9th @ 3:45pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Let your imagination run “wild” and have a “novel” adventure at Miss Phyllis’ story time. Each month the story changes but the fun never stops! This free story and activity program is appropriate for ages 2 to 6.

Bee Keepers Association Lecture – Wed., April 15th @ 7:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. The Treasure Coast Beekeeper Association (TCBA) is a nonprofit organization that provides education about bees and beekeeping for people of the Treasure Coast. Every month there is a new bee related learning opportunity. This Lecture is FREE and open to the general public.

Critter Encounters “George the Gulf Fritillary”— Thurs., April 16th @ 4:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Join us as we wander through Oxbow’s butterfly gardens to search for George the Gulf Fritillary and all his winged friends. This is a free program for children ages 5 and up.

NO Treehouse Time this month due to Earth Day preparations

Earth Day “It’s Our Planet, It’s Our Time” – Sat., April 18th @ 10:00am to 3:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Back by popular demand our Earth Day Celebration has returned to the Oxbow Eco-Center! Join us to learn about St. Lucie County’s thriving environment, healthy community-based organizations and what we are all doing to help create a sustainable world. This free event has something for everyone, no matter your age. Come out and join our parade, take in some local music, meet Florida’s native wildlife, and get a chance to participate fun hands-on activities with our interactive exhibitors. Appropriate for all ages. No RSVP.

May 2015 –Fragrant Flowers

Guided Hikes – Join us for the last hike of the season Sat., May 2nd @ 9:00am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. Enjoy a guided hike through the wilds of the Oxbow and be enriched with the biodiversity this preserve has to offer. No RSVP required just show up at 9am ready to hike!

Tai Chi Classes -- *Tai Chi for Health*: Beginner & Intermediate classes: Tuesdays @ 10:30am (May 5, 12, 19, 26) & Fridays @ 9:30am (May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29); ***Tai Chi Yang Form***: Tuesdays @ 6:30pm & Fridays @ 10:45am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. \$10 per class or \$32 for 4 classes, appropriate for ages 16 and up. RSVP a must. Call 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Tai Chi instructors Hilde and Hector Ruiz-Puyana will lead classes in Tai Chi for Health and Tai Chi Yang Form, designed for everyone, including those who suffer from arthritis, diabetes, osteoporosis, and balance issues.

*****NEW PROGRAM***Critter Crunch & Munch**— Saturdays @ 3:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Bring something to snack on while you watch the Oxbow’s animal ambassadors enjoy their favorite time of day, Meal-time! This interactive opportunity is appropriate for all ages. No RSVP.

St. Lucie Audubon Society Lecture “Audubon Involvement in the Community”— Thurs., May 7th @ 7:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. Crystal Woodward, Ft. Pierce Central High School Marine Science Club will be giving a talk about 2 major topics: our involvement in the community with various volunteer opportunities, and getting active in science with various field experiences (in particular our week long Florida trip). This lecture is FREE and open to the general public.

Junior Butterfly Club – Thurs., May 14th @ 1:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. Join the Club! Children ages 5 through 15 are invited to join the Oxbow Junior Butterfly Garden Club, which meets monthly to learn the skills of leadership and gardening, gaining

knowledge about butterflies and other wildlife, and to tend the beautiful garden that was started two years ago. Annual fee for the club is \$20.

Swamp Tales— Thurs., May 14th @ 3:45pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. Let your imagination run “wild” and have “novel” adventure at Miss Phyllis’ story time. Each month the story changes but the fun never stops! This free story and activity program is appropriate for ages 2 to 6.

Treehouse Time “Colors of the Rainbow”— Fri., May 15th @ 4:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. Miss Marion will lead youngsters and their parents on a color “hunting” expedition through imagination song and dance. Participants will wonder at colorful plants and animals that live in our woods. This is a free program appropriate for ages 3 to 5 with an adult.

Art Class “Painting with Sandy Evoy”— Sat., May 16th @ 10:00am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, RSVP- \$20/participant (includes all supplies), 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Learn the art of painting with artist Sandy Evoy of the Treasure Coast Art Association. Ms. Evoy will walk students through an exquisite painting, providing special tips on palette choices, color-mixing, and a fun and easy method for layering your work. Cost includes ALL supplies. RSVP a must.

Bee Keepers Association Lecture— Wed., May 20th @ 7:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. The Treasure Coast Beekeeper Association (TCBA) is a nonprofit organization that provides education about bees and beekeeping for people of the Treasure Coast. Every month there is a new bee related learning opportunity. This Lecture is FREE and open to the general public.

June 2015- Water, Water...Everywhere!

Tai Chi Classes -- *Tai Chi for Health*: Beginner & Intermediate classes: Tuesdays @ 10:30am (Jun. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30) & Fridays @ 9:30am (Jun. 5, 12, 19, 26); ***Tai Chi Yang Form*:** Tuesdays @ 6:30pm & Fridays @ 10:45am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. \$10 per class or \$32 for 4 classes, appropriate for ages 16 and up. RSVP a must. Call 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Tai Chi instructors Hilde and Hector Ruiz-Puyana will lead classes in Tai Chi for Health and Tai Chi Yang Form, designed for everyone, including those who suffer from arthritis, diabetes, osteoporosis, and balance issues.

Critter Crunch & Munch— Saturdays @ 3:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Bring something to snack on while you watch the Oxbow’s animal ambassadors enjoy their favorite time of day, Meal-time! This interactive opportunity is appropriate for all ages. No RSVP.

Surviving the Wild Camp—Mon., June 8th – Wed., June 10th; 9:00am – 2:00pm; \$75, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. The Oxbow Eco-Center and Savannas State Park Preserve team up for this really fun and challenging camp, where participants learn to survive in the wild and gain skills they will use throughout their lives. Campers will learn to make cordage and rope from roots, construct a shelter with nothing but natural materials, build a fire using primitive tools, make a compass to find the way home, learn the plants indigenous people used to survive, and much more! Each camper will need to bring their own snacks and lunch. Appropriate for ages 10-14 and the cost is **\$75 per camper. Pre-registration required.**

Advanced Survival Camp—Thurs., June 11th – Fri., June 12th; 9:00am – 4:00pm; \$75, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. The Oxbow Eco-Center and Savannas State Park Preserve team up for this short but intensive survival studies experience. Participants will have a chance to further their survival knowledge with hands-on practice and study. Campers will be lost proofing, wildlife tracking, advanced cordage making, fire making and building their own primitive fishing gear! Each camper will need to bring their own snacks and lunch. Appropriate for ages 10 and up, the cost is **\$75 per camper. Pre-registration and previous survival training is required.**

Swamp Tales— Thurs., June 11th @ 3:45pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. Let your imagination run “wild” and have “novel” adventure at Miss Phyllis’ story time. Each month the story changes but the fun never stops! This free story and activity program is appropriate for ages 2 to 6.

Treehouse Time “What’s in a Cloud”—Fri., June 19th @ 4:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. Our young visitors and their parents will let their imaginations take flight amongst the fluffy clouds during this fun program hosted by Miss Marion. This is a free program appropriate for ages 3 to 5 with an adult.

Art Class —there will be no art class this month

Going Wild Summer Camp—Mon., June 22nd - Fri., June 26th; 9:00am – 2:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center; **\$90**, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. Go on an exciting wild adventure at the Oxbow, and learn all about Florida’s native animals, wonderful trees, flowering plants, bizarre but cool bugs and just what it is that makes this state so special. Camper’s knowledge will take flight as they learn the secret art of tracking animals, observing wet and dry ecosystems, playing some water games, and just being immersed in the natural world. Every day your problem solving skills will be used to help us solve Oxbow’s ultimate species mystery. Bring your own snacks and lunch. Appropriate for ages 7-9 and the cost is **\$90 per camper. Pre-registration required.**

July 2015- What’s Down Under

Tai Chi Classes -- *Tai Chi for Health*: Beginner & Intermediate classes: Tuesdays @ 10:30am (Jul. 7, 14, 21, 28) & Fridays @ 9:30am (Jul. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31); ***Tai Chi Yang Form*:** Tuesdays @ 6:30pm & Fridays @ 10:45am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. \$10 per class or \$32 for 4 classes, appropriate for ages 16 and up. RSVP a must. Call 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Tai Chi instructors Hilde and Hector Ruiz-Puyana will lead classes in Tai Chi for Health and Tai Chi Yang Form, designed for everyone, including those who suffer from arthritis, diabetes, osteoporosis, and balance issues.

Critter Crunch & Munch— Saturdays @ 3:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Bring something to snack on while you watch the Oxbow’s animal ambassadors enjoy their favorite time of day, Meal-time! This interactive opportunity is appropriate for all ages. No RSVP.

Swamp Tales— Thurs., July 9th @ 3:45pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. Let your imagination run “wild” and have “novel” adventure at Miss Phyllis’ story time. Each month the story changes but the fun never stops! This free story and activity program is appropriate for ages 2 to 6.

Jr. Spirit of Nature Art Camp— Mon., July 13th – Fri., June 17th; 8:30am – 12:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center; Campers ages 7 to 10 years old; **\$95**, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. Imagine the freedom of soaring through the air like an eagle, swimming along the swift currents of the St. Lucie River or excavating a home deep into the warm sands of the pine flatwoods. Let your imagination take over to enjoy a week filled with creativity and fun. We will be exploring many different art and craft mediums in an effort to allow your child to improve their self-expression and gain confidence. Let your child’s wild imagination roam nature with this year’s theme “The Spirit of Animals.” Campers will need to bring their own snack and a reusable water bottle. **\$95 per camper (includes all art supplies). Pre-registration required.**

Treehouse Time “Life under a Log”—Fri., July 17th @ 4:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. Have you ever wondered what lives under the log in your backyard. Explore with Miss Marion as she leads a “log turning” expedition. Enjoy some silly fun songs about you may discover. This is a free program appropriate for ages 3 to 5 with an adult.

Art Class —there will be no art class this month

Spirit of Nature Art Camp—July 20th -24th; 8:30am – 2:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center; Campers ages 10 to 16 years old; **\$125**, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. Imagine the freedom of soaring through the air like an eagle, swimming along the swift currents of the St. Lucie River or excavating a home deep into the warm sands of the pine Flatwoods. Let your imagination take over to enjoy a week filled with creativity and fun. We will be exploring many different art and craft mediums in an effort to allow your child to improve their self-expression and gain confidence. Let your child's wild imagination roam nature with this year's theme "The Spirit of Animals." Bring your own snacks and a lunch for this extended camp. **\$125 per camper (includes all art supplies). Pre-registration required.**

Nature Connects Robotics and Lego Camp—Mon., July 27th – Fri., July 31st; 9:00am – 1:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center; Ages 6 to 12 years old; **\$120**, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. This fun hands-on technology and nature-based camp introduces the work of the most ingenious engineer of all time – Mother Nature! Participants will build, program, and explore clever robot models of different creations using Lego Bricks. From animals to plants to extreme weather this camp will have something for everyone. Each camper will need to bring their own snacks and lunch. **\$120 per camper. Pre-registration required.**

August 2015- Turtles of the Treasure Coast

Tai Chi Classes -- *Tai Chi for Health*: Beginner & Intermediate classes: Tuesdays @ 10:30am (Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25) & Fridays @ 9:30am (Aug 7, 14, 21, 28); ***Tai Chi Yang Form*:** Tuesdays @ 6:30pm & Fridays @ 10:45am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. \$10 per class or \$32 for 4 classes, appropriate for ages 16 and up. RSVP a must. Call 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Tai Chi instructors Hilde and Hector Ruiz-Puyana will lead classes in Tai Chi for Health and Tai Chi Yang Form, designed for everyone, including those who suffer from arthritis, diabetes, osteoporosis, and balance issues.

Critter Crunch & Munch— Saturdays @ 3:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Bring something to snack on while you watch the Oxbow's animal ambassadors enjoy their favorite time of day, Meal-time! This interactive opportunity is appropriate for all ages. No RSVP.

Wild About Animals Jr Camp— Mon., August 3rd –Fri., August 7th; 8:30am – 12:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center; Ages 4 to 6 years old; **\$75**, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. Bring your first time campers and let them get a little wild at the Oxbow. Each day will focus on different families of animals ... where they live, what they need to survive, and some of the strategies they use to outsmart their predators. Each day will be filled with fun learning and creative crafts that participants will take home. Each camper will need to bring their own snacks and lunch. **\$75 per camper. Pre-registration required.**

Swamp Tales— August 13th @ 3:45pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. Let your imagination run "wild" and have "novel" adventure at Miss Phyllis' story time. Each month the story changes but the fun never stops! This free story and activity program is appropriate for ages 2 to 6.

Treehouse Time "Life in a Shell"— August 14th @ 4:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or oxbow@stlucieco.org. Imagine having to carry home on your back everywhere you went! Participants will have the opportunity to crawl, act and create your own shell. This is a free program appropriate for ages 3 to 5 with an adult.

Art Class "Paper Beads" — August 15th @ 10:00am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, RSVP-\$20/participant, 772-785-5833 or www.oxbow@stlucieco.org. Here's a great recycling tip for those old catalogs, magazines and scrap paper -- make beautiful paper beads that can be used to create featherweight necklaces, bracelets or earrings. Join the Treasure Coast Art Association at the Oxbow Eco-Center and learn how to

make these unique masterpieces. Cost includes ALL supplies. RSVP a must.